



Royal Academy of Music

Arthur Sullivan Archive

at the

Royal Academy of Music

Honorary Archivist: **Arthur Jacobs**

Introduction and guide to the Archive

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INTRODUCTION

The Arthur Sullivan Archive was created in recognition of a need for a British centre for research into Britain's most celebrated Victorian composer. As the first recipient of this country's prestigious Mendelssohn Scholarship, Sullivan chose initially to pursue his studies at the Royal Academy of Music as well as later at the Leipzig Conservatory. The composer's early and continued association with the Academy render it appropriate as a location for the Archive.

Formally inaugurated at an Academy concert on 7 May 1987, the Archive has as its core collection the research materials of Arthur Jacobs whose biography *Arthur Sullivan: a Victorian musician* was published in 1984 by Oxford University Press and reissued, with corrections, as a paperback in 1986. A second edition, with extensive revisions, was published by Scholar Press in 1992. The Sir Arthur Sullivan Society has associated itself with the Archive, and is a regular contributor. Other donations have included microfilm copies of the twenty volumes of Sullivan's diaries which are housed in the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Yale University, and a print-out from the *Arthur Sullivan personalia* database which was compiled and is maintained by F.W. Wilson of the Pierpont Morgan Library in New York. The latter institution's Gilbert and Sullivan Collection comprises a wealth of materials cared for in optimum conditions, and this indispensable American collection is now complemented by a modest British counterpart.

CATEGORIES OF MATERIALS

The categories were established by Arthur Jacobs and are given here in order of their shelf arrangement which is largely arbitrary. Where necessary, a brief description gives an indication of the type and scope of documents within each category.

Year Files

A file for each year (or group of years) of Sullivan's life, containing copies of Sullivan's own letters (sent and received), diary entries, extracts from his letter-press books and other documents identified as relating to a specific year. These are largely Arthur Jacobs' transcripts or photocopies; most of the original material is in the Pierpont Morgan Library. Within each file, a division by month is preceded by material general to the year or which cannot be placed precisely within the year. A supplementary file contains as yet undated or undatable documents.

Sullivan Diaries

The Archive has microfilm copies of the twenty volumes of the composer's own diaries which are at Yale University. It does not yet possess a copy of the remaining volume which is in the Pierpont Morgan Library, though transcripts of extracts will be found in the Year Files.

Works Files

Each file contains material (Sullivan's own remarks, contemporary comments, press cuttings, etc.) relating to a specific work of Sullivan's. Stage and non-stage works are segregated. Other relevant categories of material such as programmes, libretti, acting texts, prompt books, etc. are kept separately.

People Files

A number of files containing information relating to specific people who were associated with Sullivan. There is also a card index of people, annotated as follows:

- * **Red number** at top left indicates page reference in Jacobs' 1984 book
- * **W** at top right indicates person included in F.W. Wilson's *Arthur Sullivan personalia* database (February 1988 printout available)
- * **P** at top right indicates person represented in People Files

Subject Files

Each file brings together information relating to a particular aspect of Sullivan's life or some other related subject which is not represented in any other category. Headings include Autobiographical material, Clubs, Contracts, Freemasonry, Funeral & Will, Genealogies (other than Sullivan), Gilbert - works, Jewishness, Leeds Festival, Medical, Other composers' stageworks, Places.

Press Cuttings - Sullivan's lifetime & obituaries

Press Cuttings - Post-obituary

Genealogy - Arthur Sullivan

Sullivan family tree compiled by Leslie Weaver for Jacobs' book. Research materials of Leslie Weaver and Arthur Jacobs including copies of birth, marriage and death certificates.

Book excerpts referring to Sullivan

Photocopies and transcripts in author order and separated into those used for Jacobs' 1984 book, and those not used.

Letters referring to Sullivan

other than those to him or from him (see Year Files), or Arthur Jacobs' correspondence (separate category).

Arthur Jacobs' Sullivan Correspondence

- * to end of 1983
- * 1984 onwards (largely arising from book)

Conference Papers & Announcements

Exhibition Catalogues

Publishers' Catalogues

Concert & Festival Programmes

Acting Texts

Libretti

Prompt Books

Scripts & Recordings of Radio & Television Broadcasts

Portraits, Illustrations & Lists of Iconographical Collections

Books

Unpublished Theses

Periodicals

All catalogued on the Library computer catalogue with location: SULLIVAN

Sound & Video Recordings

In addition to the material held in the Sullivan Archive, the Academy Library has a wealth of published material (music, books and sound recordings) as well as the holograph manuscripts of *The martyr of Antioch* and *The Mikado*.

Donations

A list of donors to the Archive is to be maintained. Those wishing to donate material are requested to contact the Academy Librarian. Some categories of material which would be particularly welcome were outlined by Arthur Jacobs in his article "A Sullivan Archive", *Musical Times*, April 1987.

Visitors

The Archive is available for research during the Library's opening hours by appointment. Visitors will be required to give an undertaking that any resulting publication will acknowledge the Archive.



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